
CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PREPARATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Public participation specific to the Leeville Project is summarized in this chapter. The summary describes the public involvement, identifies persons and organizations contacted during preparation of the EIS, and specifies time frames for accomplishing goals in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.6.

Public involvement in the EIS process includes the necessary steps to identify and address public concerns and needs. The public involvement process assists the agencies in: (1) broadening the information base for decision making; (2) informing the public about the Proposed Action and the potential long-term impacts that could result from the project; and (3) ensuring that public needs are understood by the agencies.

Public participation in the EIS process is required by NEPA at four specific points: the scoping period, review of Draft EIS, review of Final EIS, and receipt of the Record of Decision.

- **Scoping:** The public is provided a 30-day scoping period to disclose potential issues and concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Information obtained by BLM during public scoping is combined with issues identified by the agencies to form the scope of the EIS.
- **Draft EIS Review:** A 60-day Draft EIS review period is initiated by publication of the Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS in the Federal Register. A public hearing will be held in Elko, Nevada during the 60-day comment period.

- **Final EIS Review:** A 30-day Final EIS review period is initiated by publication of the Notice of Availability for the Final EIS in the Federal Register.
- **Record of Decision:** Subsequent to the 30-day review period for the Final EIS, a Record of Decision will be prepared and a Notice of Availability for the Record of Decision will be published in the Federal Register.

IMPLEMENTATION

The public participation process for the Leeville Project EIS is comprised of the following six components:

1. Public Scoping Period and Meetings

Publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) initiated a public scoping period on August 1, 1997. The NOI summarized the Proposed Action and a determination by BLM that an EIS would be necessary for analysis of the proposal. The news media and public were notified of the public comment period. A news release was sent to nineteen news organizations.

A scoping package that included a project summary and maps were mailed to various agencies, groups, and individuals announcing the scoping period and describing the Proposed Action. Issues that had been identified by the agencies were also included in the mailing.

A formal public scoping meeting was held in Elko, Nevada on August 20, 1997. The scoping meeting was attended by twenty members of the public. No comments were received by BLM during the meeting. The scoping letter was made available at the meeting.

The public scoping period ended on September 2, 1997. During that period the agency received 12 written responses from individuals and organizations.

2. Public Scoping Report

BLM compiled a Public Scoping Report for distribution to interested persons. The Public Scoping Report is available at the BLM Field Office in Elko, Nevada.

3. EIS Mailing List

An EIS mailing list of interested persons was assembled from previous mining-related EIS mailing lists maintained at BLM Field Office in Elko, Nevada. This list is supplemented by addresses on letters received during the scoping period.

4. Distribution of the Draft EIS

The Draft EIS will be distributed as follows:

- A Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register specifying dates for the comment period.
 - A news release will be provided by the BLM Elko Field Office at the beginning of the 60-day comment period on the Draft EIS. The news release will be submitted to the same news organizations as the initial public scoping announcement.
 - The Draft EIS will be distributed to interested parties identified in the updated EIS mailing list.
 - Letters received during the public review period for the Draft EIS will be acknowledged such that respondents will know that their comments have been received by BLM.
 - A public meeting will be held in Elko, Nevada to obtain comments on the Draft EIS and to answer questions that the public may have regarding the Project or the EIS process. The meeting will take place after publication of the Federal Register Notice. The meeting will be held on April 3, 2002.
- Briefings will be offered for local government representatives.

5. Final EIS Distribution

The Final EIS distribution will be completed after consideration is given to comments received on the Draft EIS. The Final EIS will be released as follows:

- A Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register;
- Copies of the Final EIS will be sent to addresses on the mailing list; and,
- A news release will be issued to the same news outlets used for previous project announcements.

6. Record of Decision

The Record of Decision will be distributed to people and organizations identified on the updated project mailing list. A news release will be made to the same news outlets used for previous project announcements.

CRITERIA AND METHODS BY WHICH PUBLIC INPUT IS EVALUATED

Letters and testimony concerning the Draft EIS will be reviewed and evaluated by BLM to determine if information provided in the comments would require a formal response or contain new data that may identify deficiencies in the EIS. Steps would then be initiated to correct such deficiencies and to incorporate information into the Final EIS.

Should changes from the Draft EIS to the Final EIS be deemed significant, BLM will review and evaluate the need to reissue a Draft EIS, prepare a supplemental EIS, or prepare a Final EIS.

Consultation With Others

The following state and federal agencies were consulted during preparation of the EIS:

- Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 - ❑ Division of Environmental Protection
 - ❑ Division of Water Resources
 - ❑ Division of Wildlife
 - ❑ Nevada Natural Heritage Program

- Nevada Department of Human Resources
- Nevada Department of Water Resources
- Nevada Department of Business and Industry
- Nevada Department of Transportation
- United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- United States Bureau of Reclamation
- United States Army Corps of Engineers

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- Nevada Division of Wildlife; and,
- Eureka County (Social and Economic Resources Only)

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Carol Marchio – Soils
Donna Nyrehn - Grazing/Vegetation
Tom Olsen - Groundwater Modeling
Bob Marchio - Land Use and Access
Bryan Hockett - Cultural Resources/Native American Religious Concerns/Paleontology
Paul Myers – Socioeconomics
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Paul Pettit – Hydrology Manager

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